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Letter dated 27 September 2002 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Following consultations on the situation in Guinea-Bissau, and at the request of Council members, Ambassador Negroponte on 7 August 2002 wrote to the Executive Director of the World Bank concerning the critical social and economic situation in that country. On 23 August, the Bank's Executive Director sent a reply which was unfortunately delayed in transmittal and only recently reached the United States Mission.

With sincere apologies for this delay, I now request that you circulate the attached copy of the World Bank letter of 23 August to Council members, and also direct that the letter be entered into the documents of the Council.

(*Signed*) James B. **Cunningham**

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Annex to the letter dated 27 September 2002 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Thank you for your letter of 7 August 2002, concerning the critical economic and social situation in Guinea-Bissau. I am happy to note that the Security Council's Working Group has brought the problems of that country to the Council's attention and hope that the United Nations will continue its valuable efforts to assist Guinea-Bissau.

The Bank has been closely involved in the economic recovery efforts of Guinea-Bissau since the end of the civil war. The Bank is currently assisting Guinea-Bissau through a national health project, a basic education project, a private sector development operation, and support to the country's military demobilization efforts. We are also working with the Government and civil society to prepare a national HIV/AIDS operation. We hope that this work, which is done in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and other partners, can contribute to the peace-building that is indispensable for the country's economic and social recovery.

Our staff have noted your concerns about the macroeconomic situation, which we have been following very closely for some time, together with the International Monetary Fund. I can assure you, and the other members of the Council, that we are making every effort to assist the Government of Guinea-Bissau in restoring macroeconomic stability while at the same time respecting the country's vital priorities of peace and stability. I have asked our staff working on Guinea-Bissau to take particular note of your concerns and to keep me informed of developments there.

(*Signed*) James D. **Wolfensohn**